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news release

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Room 1301, Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

(NR93-085)

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HEARING SLATED ON FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE

For immediate release, Wednesday, November 3, 1993

WASHINGTON -- The proposed consolidation of the Office of International Cooperation and Development (OICD) and the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) into a new agency to be known as the International Trade Service will be the subject of a joint public hearing before the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Foreign Agriculture and Hunger (FAH), and the House Government Operations Subcommittee on Information, Justice and Agriculture, according to FAH Subcommittee Chairman Tim Penny, D-Minn. The Subcommittees will examine the proposed agency's ability to carry out U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) mission to expand the export of U.S. agricultural commodities.

The hearing will be held on Wednesday, November 10, 1993, in Room 1300 of the Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D. C., beginning at 9:30 a.m.

"It is important for the Subcommittee to consider the mission of the Foreign Agricultural Service as Secretary Espy begins reorganization of USDA. In a rapidly changing marketplace, FAS needs the mandate from Congress and the tools to assist in the development of markets and the sale of many agriculture and food products the U. S. produces," Chairman Penny said.

Ranking Minority Member Wayne Allard, R-Colo., added: "When USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) was established in 1953 its purpose was to maintain and expand foreign markets for U.S. agricultural products. The Subcommittee intends to look closely at the operation of FAS, how it discharges its responsibilities and where the best potential for increased agriculture exports exists. I am pleased that the Subcommittee will focus its attention on FAS since exports are vital to the future of American farmers and ranchers. I want to make sure that with the proposed changes in the organization of USDA, FAS can discharge its responsibilities in an effective and efficient manner."

Persons wishing additional information concerning the hearing should contact Subcommittee Staff Director Jane Shey at 202-225-2171.

NOTE: The House Agriculture Committee has available copies of the following new agriculture-related reports. Mail requests for copies to Jim Davis, 1301 LHOB, Washington, DC 20515. For more expeditious delivery you may fax requests to 202-225-3158:

____ OTA-BP-E-118 Background Paper: **Potential Environmental Impacts of Bioenergy Crop Production**, prepared by the Office of Technology Assessment, U. S. Congress

____ Statement on **The Link Between Nutrition and Cognitive Development in Children**, prepared by the Center on Hunger, Poverty and Nutrition Policy, Tufts University

____ GAO/GGD-93-137 **NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT, Assessment of Major Issues, Volume 1**

____ GAO/GGD-93-137 **NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT, Assessment of Major Issues, Volume 2**